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Grapevine

VOL 4

OCTOBER, 1953

NO. 6

Rhyme in Season

The brown leaves tumble, The winds grow stronger And shorter days Make the nights seem longer.

The schools reopen,
The children study;
Occassional rains
Make the playgrounds muddy.

The stores are ready For summer clearance, And soon old Santa Will make his appearance.

Fall planting has started— Don't let it unnerve you; Our competent salesmen Are eager to serve you.

So come in and see us,
The pleasure's all ours,
And get reacquainted
With trees, shrubs and flowers!
G.F.H.

It's Time For . . .

BULBS, mums, autumn-blooming perennials and vines, fall foliage, and the everchanging metalic beauty of succulents.

Never have we seen higher quality bulbs than those which this year bedeck our shelves. TULIPS and HYACINTHS should be purchased now and stored a few weeks in the refrigerator at 35-40 degrees before planting after November 1st. Named varieties, separate colors, \$1.50 to \$3.50 a dozen. A fabulous new PARROT TULIP of incredible size is Wonder, an electric crimson, the largest hybrid yet developed. Another new Parrot Tulip is Sunshine, ruffled yellow. Outstanding in the Darwin type Tulip is the new Rembrandt called Cordell Hull, crimson with white marbling. Outstanding.

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BLOOMING BLUE BLOOD

Terrific Talauma

We want to tell you about a truly rare tree which comes from the lower Himalayan ranges in India. Its name is TALAUMA HODGSONI and it was first described just one hundred years ago. It is an evergreen tree of medium size closely related to the Magnolias, well-clothed in



huge firm leaves, producing in spring and early summer, large terminal flowers comparable to the deciduous Magnolias but of much heavier texture and infinitely greater perfume. The new foliage which Talauma pushes out four or five times a year is actually more spectacular than the blossoms, being rich red in color with a translucent quality which lights up in the sunlight like a torch against the light green background of the mature foliage.

Talauma is rare because it is exceedingly difficult to import from its native land

(Continued on inside page)

IT'S TIME FOR ...

(Continued from front page)

standing whites are the well-known Zwanenburg, a Darwin, and White City, a later-flowering Cottage type. October is the last call for WATSONIAS, those feathery strap-leafed perennials with flowers like small glads but with better foliage—\$1.25 a dozen. FREESIAS—75 cents a dozen and Crocus—\$1.25 a dozen should also be planted immediately for winter and early spring respectively.

KOREAN MUMS, the single aster type which we recommended so highly last month, are still available, especially pinks. And now the LARGE-FLOWERED CHRYS-ANTHEMUMS are in also, all kinds and colors—85 cents.

One of the perennials for planting now is MORAEA COTENULATA, a dwarf evergreen South Africa iris exactly like M. iridioides except half the height, an outstanding value in the permanent landscape, sun or partial shade, with contemporary sun or partial shade, \$1.25 each. Of

TALAUMA . . .

(Continued from front page)

and reproduction from imported seed has been an almost hopeless process as may be verified by reference to any of the horticultural encyclopedias. The young trees which were eventually established at Kew Gardens, London, were transported the entire distance from India in specially designed glass cases. To our knowledge there is only one flowering tree of Talauma in all California. This specimen incidentally has endured without injury several winter nights of 25 degrees.

It is with particular pride therefore that we commend to your attention our sturdy young plants of Talauma Hodgsoni in four gallon containers (\$6) now three years old and starting to make the beautiful leaves which principally distinguish the tree for the first five or six years until it achieves a flowering size.

Culture is approximately that prescribed for other Magnolias, average good soil, sun or filtered light with emphasis on plenty of food and water, and protection from strong winds. There are many aristocrats among plants and sometime we propose to print here a list of those in our opinion deserving this honor. High on that list will be Talauma Hodgsoni.

FEATURE WITH A FUTURE

HEBE AUTUMN GLORY, a bush Veronica hybrid, is a fog-belt subject as are all Hebes but with better foliage than any yet grown here: small, ovate very dark green leaves on dark red stems. Of extremely compact habit, it attains some two feet across in the preferred situation of all Hebes, a cool, moist, marine climate. However it has withstood a hot Brentwood summer without foliage burn. indicating a wider use, excepting only torrid south and southwest exposures. Hebe blooms heavily in late spring and early summer—deep lavender blue flowers on small but numerous spikes, good for cutting. Rigid in habit, it is ideal under windows, as a facer, or as a low natural hedge. (\$1.50).

equal significance now are CERATOSTIG-MA GRIFFITHI, a late-flowering steel blue Plumbago-like subject with bronze foliage held well into winter; HELIANTHUS AN-GUSTIFOLIUS for bright yellow vertical lines, October and November; HYPERI-CUM CORUS, a delightful gray-green small-leaved groundcover for low borders and rock gardens: ARMERIA Glory of Holland, the pink Thrift of English gardens; ALYSSUM SAXATILE (yellow Rock Alyssum); dwarf white AGAPANTHUS; white PLATYCODON for part shade; ELYMUS GLAUCA, the very blue-gray ornamental grass for gray plant groupings; and HEL-LEBORUS ORIENTALIS hybrids, a low winter-blooming pastel flowered shade plant with peony-like leaves and blossoms good for cutting. Prices 85 cents to \$1.25.

Significant vines now in flower are THUNBERGIA GRANDIFLORA, the Sky Flower; JASMINUM MAGNIFICUM, the Portuguese Jasmine, one sun or part-shade climber or low shrub which really won't run out of bounds.

SUCCULENTS are always of special interest in the fall. Even the ordinary ones take on added leaf coloring, reds, amethysts, bronze tones, and the gray-leafed ones seem whiter by contrast. No plant family has more untested possibilities in California than this one. Right now we call to your attention Euphorbias and Echeverias for bloom and color.

More conventional sources of autumnto-winter foliage colors are LIRIODEN-DRON (eastern Tulip Tree), yellow; LIQ-UIDAMBAR, the Chinese as well as the American; ZELKOVA, a hardy very small elm-like tree with purple-bronze autumn leaves; PISTACHE CHINENSIS (Chinese Pistachio), very red pinnate leaves December; and TILIA AMERICANA, the American Linden for more yellow in a moist

Hugh Evans

In the coastal area, it is particularly important to concentrate all the sun heat we have for the benefit of sun-loving plants which form such a large and cheerful family; such things as Bougainvillea, Hibiscus—indeed, a host of fine plants too numerous to mention in detail—like all the sun heat they can get, in addition to shelter from strong winds or drafts. There are, in the close neighborhood of our establishment, magnificent and outstanding specimens of the two plants mentioned. They owe their splendor to the situation in which they were planted.

The other day, while driving a distinguished horticulturist from Costa Rica around the countryside, we saw in a Riviera garden in front of the residence, as fine a specimen of Hibiscus Crown of Bohemia as one could hope to see; a large, perfectly shaped shrub with fine, full foliage, and thickly studded from top to bottom with its glorious yellow and orange flowers. We were all lost in admiration, and for my part, gazing on this magnificent plant, I could not help wondering why every lover of beauty who sees this plant does not want to possess the same thing.

On Wilshire Boulevard in the 2900 block, Santa Monica, are two notable examples of Hibiscus White Wings, planted against the apartment house wall, sheltered from the wind and with plenty of sun. They have been for a long time about as happy and full of bloom as any I have seen in

the South Seas.

If you like plants that do not grow more than six inches tall and like shade, come in and see our Odontoglossum grande Orchids now in bloom; easy to grow and bloom; unexacting in its requirements, not needing greenhouse treatment, it should be included in the collection of all who cultivate shade-loving plants and love beauty for its own sake.

place; all \$4 to \$5. Shrubs for color include NANDINA (Heavenly Bamboo), MAHO-NIA, TERNSTROEMIA, and BERBERIS THUNBERGI ATROPURPUREA.

For protecting loosely filled slopes from this winter's downpours we recommend particularly HONEYSUCKLE, CATRIPLEX, ZAUSCHNERIA, and BACCHARIS (Mulefat), the first from flats at \$5 a hundred, the others from gallon cans at \$1.25. P.E.C.

Bigger & Better

Locarno and Lugano and that area are more Italian than most of Italy, plus the Swiss efficiency, cleanliness, plus a lush, humid, subtropical (not Mediterranean) climate suggesting (in plants only) Charleston, and the Savannah area but minus the painful heat of our south Atlantic coast. The Azaleas and Camellias are identical in size and quality and variety, the Palms the

same, etc.

Magnolia grandiflora, Oleander and Crapemyrtle have seeded themselves and gone wild in every direction, up hill and down, and in unbelievable crevasses. A whole mountainside of Magnolia grandiflora in full bloom at once is something of a sight to even the most jaded horticulturalist, especially when he remembers that the plant is native only to southeastern America. Then the Jasminum azoricum is matted and tangled throughout with a fragrance suggesting Bouvardia. The natural forest is predominately Castanea sativa, the European Chestnut of commerce, miles and miles from lake level to 3,000 to 4,000 feet, and the groves are sufficiently open to permit heavy natural pasture beneath. Everywhere in Switzerland and extreme northern Italy one is impressed by the grasses full of meadow flowers.

Geneva has one of the finest botanic

gardens in Europe. Few if any gardens in America have such complete and varied collections of North American plants as has Geneva. The peculiar climate, a form of warm-temperate similar to that of Richmond, Va., but again with cooler shorter summers, makes it possible to grow to perfection our California Redwoods, especially Seguoia gigantea, Arbutus Menziesi, and many other Pacific Coast natives. The soil is glacier morain, perfectly drained and apparently bottomless, and the snow for three months is deep and wet with temperatures rarely below 22 degrees or above 38. That too, is a feature we can hardly duplicate anywhere in the United States. The Aesculus (Horse Chestnut), Castanea, Fagus (Ash), Quercus (Oak), Plantanus (Plane) and Tilia (Linden), etc., achieve unbelieveable proportions of girth, spread, heigth and of course, age. And the Lombardy Poplars achieve 175 feet and are taprooted! Not even on the Lombardy plain did I see such Lombardies. Never be-

fore have I realized what sick, unhappy

things our own Lombardies are!

Christmas is coming!

- This year, why not let Evans & Reeves solve your gift problems?
- We will inaugurate a special gift shopping service this season!
- Watch for further announcements, & ENJOY Christmas shopping this year.